

Trans. C. Bratford
Sup. Br. Mint
New Orleans.
Apr. 5/38
Rec'd 15th.

Report for
March.

Director
Mint
Philad.

Double.

Dr. R. M. Patterson

Express Mail

APR 10

U S B Mint, New Orleans April 5th 1838.

Sir

Agreeably to your letter of the 14th February last I have the honor to report that the enclosure of this Branch is progressing rapidly to a close. The granite for the fence is laid, the holes for the iron palings are made in it about half way round the enclosure and about one fourth of the palings are put up, and look well - much better than I expected they would when I first saw them at the shop.

The building is complete, except that the granite steps of the double stairs in the principal story in the Centre building have to be taken up and replaced by longer ones and the railing added: and in the new wing there are three flights of stairs to be put up, and the ballusters on the piazzas; and the mantle pieces and grates also in the new wing.

Mr. Tyler reported to me in writing on the 3rd inst. that in the Coining department the work of preparation has been regularly progressing as fast as could be reasonably expected. The annealing furnaces are far advanced towards completion, one of which will probably be ready in another week. The small coining press is so far perfected as to be ready for trial on the arrival of the dies. The Chimney stack has been completed and all the requisite furnaces for greasing, roasting, whitening &c got ready for commencing. One of the milling machines is completed and the other far advanced. The Steam engine has been refitted and the shafting and gearing put in order with driving drums &c. A partial trial has been made of the rolling machinery which though not quite as well executed as it should have been, particularly in the gear wheels, will when properly corrected and adjusted perform very satisfactorily. The Draw Benches are nearly ready for use and will doubtless perform in a satisfactory manner in many respects. The cutting presses are presumed to be in excellent condition requiring only some

trifling adjustment and he expects to give them a trial immediately. The force pump is being erected and the hardening apparatus will probably be ready for use by the time the dies are ready for its operation upon them. In the course of the present week, he proposes passing some planchets of dimes and half dimes through the mill, by which time it is presumed the dies will have arrived.

Mr. Tyler adds that the happiest effects have resulted from the dismissal of Mr. Sibley and others for insubordination. — that the small scales for adjusting gold and for weighing planchets, not having arrived from Philad^a, he shall be under the necessity of procuring a pair for immediate use in this City. Mr. Tyler states further that a large lathe contracted for in Philadelphia and which should have arrived ere this is very much wanted to facilitate the completion of the large press and for other purposes, and requests me to ask you when he may expect it to arrive here.

I have great satisfaction in saying that Dr. Kort and Mr. Maxwell have their departments in successful operation. The Doctor has suggested to me that it is a matter of high importance to have this Edifice secured ^{by lightning rods =} from the danger to which it is exposed from the thunder ^{and} storms so prevalent in this latitude. From a Conversation with Mr. Tyler I am happy to find that I can best refer the propriety of the measure to you for your opinion and determination, which I do.

I have the honor also of enclosing the Statement from Mr. Forstall, showing the amounts and kinds of deposits received for Coinage at this Branch during the last month, amounting in the aggregate to seventy one thousand and sixty two Dollars, sixty three Cents.

I have the honor to be with profound respect

Your Humble Servant

David Bradford
Superintendent,